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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/727,465	12/04/2000	Ewald Schmon	4003.450	6567

7590 07/25/2003

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

KIM, CHRISTOPHER S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3752	14

DATE MAILED: 07/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Offic Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/727,465	SCHMON, EWALD
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Christopher S. Kim	3752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Peri d f r Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/23/03.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 12-22 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 12-22 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on 15 October 2002 is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . 6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 28, 2003 has been entered.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Drawings

3. The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on October 15, 2002 have been approved. A proper drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The correction to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Claims 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 3752

Claim 12 recites the limitation "the male and female thread have a diameters between about 30 and about 40 mm " in lines 6-7. The recitation has been considered to limit all categories of each of the male and female thread diameters to between 30mm and 40mm.

Claims 12-20 recite the limitation "____ +/- about 20%" throughout the claims. Such a recitation does not appear to indicate +/- 20% of what.

Claims 14 and 16 depend from a canceled claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 12-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis et al. (6,250,567) in view of Kubis (4,906,151).

Lewis et al. discloses a spray gun comprising: a gun body 14; an air nozzle ring 18; a trapezoid thread 51.

Lewis et al. does not disclose paint. The device of Lewis is for spraying single or multicomponent material such a polyurethane. The device of Lewis is not precluded from spraying paint. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have provided paint to the device of Lewis et al. for a painted finish.

Additionally, Lewis et al. does not disclose the ranges of flank angle, thread height, root to crest clearance, flank clearance, pitch, core diameter and outer diameter tolerance, pitch tolerance, nominal diameter. Such parameters are known parameters of a trapezoid thread. Kubis discloses male and female trapozodial threads in figure 2

defining the diameters, thread height, root to crest clearance and flank clearance. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided claimed ranges/values for optimization dependent on application criteria, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed April 28, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that neither Lewis nor Kubis disclose applicant's claimed parameters, applicant's specification page 4, line 12 through page 5, line 5 discloses that such parameters are known and discloses by ISO trapezoid DIN 103.

In response to applicant's argument that one skilled in the art, before embarking upon optimization, would have reason to believe that the standard or "unoptimized" prior art thread was less than optimum, such a recognition for optimization within the prior art would support a rejection under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated. The rejection is on the basis for optimization dependent on application criteria. "Mating pressure and fit" are only given as examples.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher S. Kim whose telephone number is (703) 308-8336. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Y. Mar can be reached on (703) 308-2087. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.



Christopher S. Kim
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3752

CK
July 24, 2003